

The Times-Dispatch

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1911.

GOVERNOR MANN'S OPPORTUNITY.

The interest in the last report of the Commission of Fisheries continues unabated. A careful study of the report brings to light many facts that are either glossed over or concealed in the written report that accompanies the tabulated figures.

The real meaning of the report lies in one sentence on page four, where it is stated that because of the protection of the James River seed beds "cultivation has dwindled, ground leases are surrendered, and the tax on that item has fallen." No stronger condemnation of the Fish Commission could be framed by an enemy, for as a compensation to the State of Virginia for a falling off of \$5,645 for renting oyster bottoms, the Fish Commission can only show an increase of a total of 120 tongers—that is, men who live by catching natural growth oysters.

On the other hand, the Fish Commission paid the Auditor \$5,653 less than in 1909, and their expenses were \$4,147 more, making a total deficit of over \$12,000, as compared with the report of the preceding year. It does not need a hurricane to show which way the wind is blowing, and nothing but deliberate blindness or invincible stupidity can prevent the Fish Commission from perceiving at last that Virginia is hopelessly on the wrong track with regard to its oysters.

This State has an enormously valuable resource in the natural advantage of James River for the growth of oysters; this natural advantage has been exploited until now the cost to maintain our oyster fleet has increased to \$44,262, and the net income to the State has decreased. Ten thousand acres of planting ground have been given up; able-bodied oystermen are leaving Virginia to go to Connecticut and other States where the oyster industry is a business question and not a political prize. And no wonder, for even an ignorant negro would understand the advantage of going to Connecticut, whose oyster business rose from 200,000 to nearly 4,000,000 bushels in twenty-eight years; while Virginia decreased from 6,000,000 to 2,500,000 bushels for the same period. Rhode Island, with less oyster growing than is attached to the County of Warwick alone in this State, gets clear \$100,000 a year for her treasury. New York, since 1901, has more than doubled the value of her output, and she now ships close to \$20,000,000 a year. States that tried to hold to the old public ground theory, like New Jersey and Maryland, fell off, and it was only when Maryland abandoned this untenable idea of communism that she began to regain her lost position.

Out of their own mouth the Fish Commission stands condemned. With the example of other successful oyster States in the Union to the contrary, the Fish Commission gravely declares, on page eight: "The gradually diminishing area now under lease will soon decline more rapidly, while the natural growth will be all the demand of the market requires." If this were said by the official head of any private oyster industry, he would be discharged at once for ignorance and incompetence. Why does Virginia demand less from her servants, and incidentally pay them more than an ordinary business man would require? The Virginia oyster industry depends absolutely upon two factors—one is cheap seed, and the other is scientific cultivation. Competent with about 500 acres of seed area, which it is now seriously intended to lease, has practically overtaken Virginia as an oyster producing State, while Virginia, with her immense natural superiority, lags behind.

Nature is just that the laws of man that are now. And unless the legislation of this State at once undertakes to foster and encourage the planting of oysters, and either decides that the State shall go into the seed-raising business, or shall make it possible for individuals to do so, then the close of the day of Virginia's oyster industry as an oyster producing State is already in sight.

The new trustees of the Virginia oyster seed area also can be expected to have the same narrow-mindedness that the old trustees had, while the taxpayers are mortified for all that they will endure. For any help, suggestion or constructive ideas the last report of the Fish Commission is worse than useless, and it might be recalled that the Fish Commission of Virginia, whose salary was raised by evading a plain and direct command of the Constitution, is one of the highest, if not the highest, paid officials of his class in America.

The final responsibility for the mismanagement of our oyster industry rests on Governor Mann, who appointed the Virginia Commission of Fisheries, and we trust that the Governor will give this great matter the attention that it deserves at his hands.

The Governor has declared that he has no further ambition, and that his only desire is to leave behind a record for public service. In the development of a constructive, economical and intelligent oyster policy, Governor Mann has the opportunity to build for himself a monument that will last as long as Virginia.

GOOD ROADS DRUMMERS.

The Knoxville Journal and Tribune informs us that President George A. Gowan, of the Memphis to Bristol Highway Commission, has just published over the State a circular letter directed to the hundreds of men who carry the mail in the country districts of Tennessee. He urges them to become good roads drummers, to talk up the benefits of good roads and to get the people interested in the State-wide highway scheme.

This strikes us as a fine idea. The carriers are directly interested in the good roads movement, for in some localities the roads are so bad that rural routes have had to be discontinued. Letter reads mean quicker and more pleasant trips for the carriers, a saving of wear and tear, more regular and faster delivery of the mail.

The rural mail carrier is forced to use the roads in all kinds of weather, over all kinds of roads. Better highways would considerably lighten his daily burden.

Every rural mail carrier sees hundreds of people in his daily rounds. These men have much influence and power for publicity, and if they shall be enlisted in this great and good cause, the construction of better highways will be expedited everywhere.

PUBLISH THE RECORDS.

To the honorable Senators and Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

"Your petitioners respectfully represent that the unpublished archives of the United States Government, relating to the War of the Revolution, have never been assembled into one collection, but that they are now distributed throughout the several public departments, and, owing to past neglect and present lack of proper care, many valuable documents have been mutilated and destroyed, and those remaining are rapidly becoming illegible."

This is the petition which is being made to Congress by the Sons of the Revolution, and, if anything, the statement of the case thus made is not strong enough. It seems well-nigh incredible that records of such general value and such great age should be allowed to fade into uselessness, but such is the fact.

The petition should be answered by the prompt publication of these records, so that the descendants of the men who wrested dominion over this country from the tyrant may have some permanent and authentic record of their matchless heritage. Furthermore, these documents are a part of the history of a great nation, and should not be lost for all time.

PIERCE AND PARTISAN PREJUDICE.

What the Providence Journal rightly describes as "a curious illustration of the survival in some quarters of the vindictive feelings of the Civil War" is afforded by the recent speech of a member of the Legislature of New Hampshire, opposing the erection of the proposed statue of Franklin Pierce in the State House grounds. Pierce was the only native of New Hampshire who ever held the office of President—in fact, he was one of the few people from that State who ever distinguished themselves.

The legislator referred to denounced Pierce as "a traitor to his country," and was applauded by some of his hearers for such a statement. The accusation, of course, was absolutely false. Pierce, disgraced by many of his colleagues of the North on the slavery question, but, as our Providence contemporary says, "it was an attitude taken by thousands whose patriotism is not open to question." The Pierce administration was an excellent one. There were some of the best and biggest men in the country in the Cabinet then. Questions of international importance were skillfully settled.

Malice and prejudice are the only possible foundations for such narrow views. If there had been more men in the North of the kindly disposition and broad view of Pierce, if there had been more lovers of peace like him, the bloody conflict of the sections might have been averted.

THE PERILOUS AGES.

Judge J. E. Porterfield, of the Kanawha City Juvenile Court, has lately made his annual report, showing that more than 30 per cent of the children brought before him are between the ages of 11 and 16. The boy must be watched with great care within that period of his early life.

In this same court thirteen was the untold age last year. Of the 1,095 children in his court in twelve months, 135 were of that age. Statutes were the next heaviest age of offenders. There were 103 boys and girls of that age before the judge. His record shows:

At 19 years, 40 children in court.
At 18 years, 101 children in court.
At 17 years, 112 children in court.
At 16 years, 134 children in court.
At 15 years, 169 children in court.
At 14 years, 167 children in court.
At 13 years, 129 children in court.
Strangely to say, Judge Porterfield has discovered that the wrongs of children of American parents, not those of immigrants, are those which the court is called on most often to correct. Of the 1,095 boys and girls brought into the court, 937 were American. Others were Italian 29, English 22, Syrian 1, German 25, French 2, Indian 1, Greek 1, Swedish 1, Austrian 1, Russian 1, Mexican 2, Servian 1.

NO FALL-OFF IN CIGARETTES.

According to the New York Times, in the year 1910, \$44,537,000 cigarettes

were made and sold in the United States. Of course, some of these were not used, but the number of unsmoked cigarettes, in comparison with the number made and sold, is negligible. A nation of more than 9,000,000 smokers is really a nation of cigarette smokers. Almost 100 cigarettes are produced and distributed in this country every year for every man, woman and child in the United States. This does not include imported cigarettes and those which are rolled by the smokers themselves, a number of no small size. Imports of cigarettes are large, but in proportion to the output at home they seem small.

The United States Tobacco Journal, which has compiled and prints the statistics of the last year in the trade, says that the enormous increase in 1910 over the number of cigarettes smoked in 1909, an increase of 1,536,487,308, was despite an increase in the revenue stamp tax of 71 cents, and a widespread movement against cigarette smoking throughout the country. Denunciation of the cigarette as a "coffin nail" seems "to increase its popularity."

The consumption of tobacco in other forms does not decrease except in the case of very small cigars, the output of which dropped off \$5,353,526 last year, perhaps on account of increased prices, due to the new stamp tax. Nearly 150,000,000 more large cigars were produced, and nearly 150,000,000 more pounds of manufactured tobacco. The American people are certainly not turning away from tobacco.

THE INROADS OF DIVORCE.

Charles A. Ellwood, professor of sociology in the University of Missouri, has been investigating very carefully the divorce question. It is his opinion that at the present rate of increase of divorces, before the end of the century one out of every two marriages will result in a divorce. That is a rather strong assertion, but Professor Ellwood relies on the ratio of increase that has already been shown. In 1885, American courts granted 25,000 divorces as against 24,000 for all the rest of the civilized world. In 1906, the American courts granted 72,000 as against 40,000 for the rest of the world. In forty years, then, the divorce increase has been three times as great as the increase in population.

The present ratio of divorce and marriage is 1 to 12. In France, it is 1 to every 25. In Germany 1 to every 40, and in England 1 to every 100. In Missouri, one divorce is granted to every eight marriages. In the State of Washington there is one divorce to every four marriages. In Colorado and Montana the ratio is one to five, and in Texas, Oklahoma and Indiana it is one to six.

Professor Ellwood predicts a great upheaval in America unless something is done to preserve the family ties. He says:

"Free divorce is just the same as free love. It is just swapping of families, and the free love advocates are more dangerous to society than are anarchists."

"I believe the family is in a period of transition in America. I believe we are passing from the old to a new and higher type of family—a family which there won't be coercion, or authority, or consideration of property in marrying. A place will be reached where love will govern all. The family will be ethical, will be democratic. The equal rights of every member will be regarded and preserved. In this the child will be taken more into consideration than it is now. The family of the future must rest on the rights of the child."

Divorce, thinks Professor Ellwood, is materially an American institution. More native-born Americans get divorces than there are foreigners or international couples. More Protestants than Catholics or Jews get them. More childless families obtain them than families where there are children. More city residents than rural residents are divorced.

The cause of this state of affairs is, thinks the same authority, that people are growing to look at marriage as a personal convenience. Industrial conditions and city life enter into the problems. Before there were factories all the work was done at home. The family was kept together in the day. It was not so separated. Now, with our great manufacturing, in which the father works in one place, the son in another, the daughter in still another, and perhaps the mother in another, the family is divided to its detriment.

Another cause of divorce is childless marriages. The number of such unions has increased from 2 to 20 per cent, since the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The divorce question is one of the most important in the country. Such studies help much in the solution of the problem.

A LINCOLN STORY.

Ferdinand Cole tells a very striking story about Lincoln in a recent issue of the Rocky Mountain News. It is:

A Confederate soldier, a mere boy, baby, of Company K, Tenth Alabama, lay wounded on the battlefield of Sharpsburg. He thought he was dying. A stranger bent over him and said:

"Yes, you are very young."

"Yes, I am," replied baby, "and I'm dying. Will you please send this Bible to my mother, whose address is on the fly leaf?"

The stranger took it, saying, "We're not going to let so nice a boy as you die, and you yourself, shall take this book back to your mother."

As the stranger started to go, baby asked, "Who is it that I am to thank for this kindness?"

"My name," said the stranger, "is Abraham Lincoln."

age, wrapped in brown paper, was handed him. It contained his little Bible and a card on which was written: "Take this Book of God to your mother. A. Lincoln." Some verses were marked with the letter "L." Baby treasured the book for many years.

No one ever more thoroughly lived and practiced the saying, "Kind hearts are more than coronets, and simple faith more than Norman blood," than Lincoln.

A GLOSSARY OF AERONAUTICS.

An indication of the progress of the science of aerial navigation is affirmed in the efforts of the Aeronautical Society of Great Britain to compile a glossary of aeronautics. The irregular terminology of the new art will thus be disciplined and defined. A number of things have been made clearer as to the use of terms.

There is a difference, we are told, between "aerostation" and "aviation." The first must be applied to "gas-borne," or lighter-than-air-machines; the latter with "dynamically-raised," or heavier-than-air machines. Zepplin experiments in aerostation; Wright in aviation.

The term "airship" should not be used to mean an aeroplane, but only a dirigible balloon.

"Aeroplanes" must not be used to indicate the planes themselves, nor should "plane" be used to indicate the whole machine.

That new word, which so many pretended students of aviation have worked off on every occasion, "hangar," is to be abolished utterly and the good old English word "shed" must be used instead. In the new vocabulary there is no such word as "airman." The approved word is "aeronaut"—who is a man practicing any branch of aerial navigation. An "aviator" is merely a man who practices aviation—which implies the use of a machine heavier than air. The operator of a machine lighter than air has been given no suitable appellation. "Aerostat," which would seem appropriate, is condemned as "rare and incorrect."

These distinctions are doubtless very nice and scientific, but popular usage is likely to sanction the discarded terms for many the long day yet.

AT HOME.

All Akron is stirred up about an ape. Akron is in Ohio and the ape concerned is the famous "Consul." He was tendered a luncheon Monday at the Garfield Hotel, the host being the daughter of Mayor William T. Sawyer.

Among those present were the daughter of the president of Buchtel College, the daughter of the judge of the Court of Common Pleas and other "prominent young society women."

Consul appeared rather disinclined to associate with the assembled company, but upon being "assured" that he was to be entertained by really nice people, he sat down to the table with a rather blasé air. He objected to the waiters, and so they retired from the elegant private dining room. They were "impossible."

"How like a man he is!" exclaimed one of the young women as Consul dined daintily behind a branch of celery with a pretty waitress.

"Yes," some one replied, "he has even better manners than some men I know."

The ape was in evening dress, wearing a white tie, pumps and a silly smile. He was absolutely "conventional." He must have perceived with intense gratification that his fair companions were in pretty afternoon gowns. He ate everything on the bill of fare, yelling terribly when he got a mouthful of something too hot.

If he could have talked, we doubt not that his remarks would have been every bit as clever and interesting as the inanities and bromidioms of some of the men "one meets, my dear." It is not hard to believe that he has better manners than some men have.

Consul was in congenial society, no doubt. He must have felt thoroughly at home.

ON TEMPTATION.

(Selected for the Times-Dispatch.)

"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil."—Matt. iv. 1.

This temptation of Jesus is a very wonderful event. There is no incident in all His history on which our imagination may expend itself with more lavish speculation; while, on the other hand, there is none that comes nearer to our practical lives with great stimulus and comfort. The story is familiar to us all of how Christ, when His baptism was accomplished, went into the desert and fasted forty days, and at the end of this time the devil came and tempted Him. We must remember that He was all worn out and hungry when "the tempter" came to Him, and he said, "If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But He answered and said, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.'"

Consider what this temptation must have been; an appeal to the healthy senses of man, saying, "You need food, God made food for you, and God gave you the power to make it for yourself. Now use your power and fulfil God's will." Remember, the gnawing hunger was there, saying, "Amen" to the devil's words, and Jesus, when He had been made man, needed bread just like the humblest being who had a human body. There was nothing low or unholy in this desire for sustenance. God had made man to live by bread; but—here comes in Christ's noble sword of the Spirit, cutting the knot of this specious temptation right in two—truly, man was not made to live by bread alone.

God gives us bread to live by, but when the devil puts out his hand and says, "Stop! Now there is a higher

life than that which is fed by the tasting of bread, and that is fed by the not tasting it!" when He who gave the body its food takes it away, in order to feed the soul and send hunger, because only by hunger can come truth, what shall be said but this: "Man shall not live by bread alone, so I shall not wonder even when He takes the bread away, nor dare nor wish to interfere?"

St. Matthew tells us, then, of the second temptation in these words: "Then the devil taketh Him up into the Holy City, and sitteth Him on a pinnacle of the temple, and saith unto Him, 'If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down: for it is written, I shall give His angels charge concerning Thee; and in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone.' Jesus answered: 'It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord Thy God.' Here was a more trying temptation to a more sensitive part of His being than the first, for He knew He was the Son of God, and just before He came into the wilderness, at His baptism, His Father had claimed Him from the opened sky, saying: 'This is My beloved Son.' And now here was the tempter saying: 'Prove Your Sonship; force Your Father to own You by flinging Yourself into danger, from which He must save You.' And what does Jesus say? How calm and certain His answer! 'No, I must not tempt the Lord My God. I am His Son. I know it even when I seem most deserted. It is not Mine to dictate how He shall show His Fatherhood. It is not Mine to create difficulties, just that His fatherly care may conquer them. Let Me wait, and in His own good time and way He will show Himself to Me more clearly than if His hand caught Me half way between the pinnacle and the pavement.'"

This temptation had differed greatly from the first; it was harder than the first to resist, for, strange as it may seem, as a man grows more spiritual he encounters new dangers he knew not when he was more carnal. To hunger for bread is terrible and may drive a man to great wickedness; but to hunger for a God who seems to refuse Himself is infinitely more terrible, and may drive to wickedness for more intense the soul that cannot trust and wait till God shall claim the child, whom He has not forgotten for an instant in His own way.

Then comes the third temptation—"Again the devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto Him, 'All these things will I give Thee if Thou wilt fall down and worship me.' Now we can all see the temptation in this—for Jesus wanted these kingdoms intensely (not with the covetousness of avaricious men, but had He not come to win them even with the price of His own blood?) He wanted that world to pour His blessings and saving grace upon it, and here He was told by the devil, "Do one wrong thing and all Your great longing for these possessions will be at an end, for they will be Yours." Those of us who have loved our friends and longed intensely to keep them, and had a time come when by some one wrong act or one concession to our standards could feel the chance we had longed for would be ours, can understand the sort of temptation that this time came to Jesus. In the very intensity of the temptation He turned against it as He cried out, "Get thee hence, Satan." These three temptations illustrate the idea already mentioned, that as a man becomes higher so he becomes capable of higher temptations. The first temptation appealed to Christ's bodily appetite, which we know He had in His perfect humanity that came when He was made man. The second temptation appealed to His need right then of His Father, and the third to His love of His brethren.

Life cannot be lived here without temptations any more than the lungs can breathe without oxygen in the air. If we are true Christians we shall meet our temptations even as Christ did, in the strength of the God who is the Father, of whom all men are children. Every temptation that attacks us attacked Him and was conquered. Whenever our struggle becomes fiercest and most trying, let us pray that strength to resist may come as we recall the wonderful and blessed day when Jesus was "led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil."

Death! In the very heart of the Lynchburg Advance we found yesterday an account of a banquet recently held there by some very fine gentlemen, and the menu has some very interesting items. First, we note that celebrated cocktail of the Pelican State, "Sazerac cocktails." Hardly would we call this a "dry" foundation for a dinner in a dry town. Brushing over a few preliminaries we come across "sauvignon," and we have suspicions about something that came after the fish: "Lively Sherbert Frape"—"lively," mark you, my masters, "Extra Dry" followed the canvasback, and then came "cordials"—a sort of blanket clause, perhaps. And this in Lynchburg!

The Boston Herald displays its crass ignorance of Southern history in a recent pronouncement on Jefferson Davis, and emphasizes its lack of accurate information by referring to the Vice-President of the Confederacy as "Stebens." Shades of Liberty Hall!

The Brunswick Gazette says: "Every day during the few weeks just passed somebody at Suffolk has announced himself for something. If the women of that town could hold office the entire population would be so."

The office-holding fever is noticeable throughout the State.

Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

Circle of the Ring.

What is meant by "the circle of the ring" in connection with a wedding? G. B. G.
The groom, being at the right of the bride, hands the ring to the correct man, who gives it to the bridegroom, who passes it to the bride, who hands it to the officiating clergyman. He then places it on the ring finger of the bride's left hand. That completes the circle symbolically as the ring itself, of the perpetuity of the compact.

Hogmanay.

What is Hogmanay and the feast connected therewith? S. G. F.
It is the old name in Scotland for the last day of the year, on which children go about singing, receiving a dole of bread or cake, and the celebration given on that day to a visitor the gift given to an applicant. Hogmanay means holy month, and the member is so called because it is the one in which Christ was born.

Aerostic.

In my school days more than fifty years ago we had, at school, to write a dole aerostic from the word "precipitate," one commencing with the first letter downward and the other from the last letter upward. All I can remember is that I commenced with "Peter Riley." Can you supply the rest? S. G. W.
The first was: "Peter Riley eats fish and catfish and eels, and the other: 'Eels catch alligators, fish eat raw potatoes.'"

Penetrating Perfume.

What is a good penetrating perfume for bureau drawers, chiffoniers, handkerchief boxes, and the like? Z. X.
Sandalwood.

Five Hundred.

What is the law of progressive five hundred in the matter of scoring? B. B.
It is this: "A pad of score sheets

is furnished each table. After hands are played out, count all points made or not back and enter the score of each player individually on the score sheet. The entry is made on the sheet by one player and marked O. K. by the adversary. The score sheet is then turned over to the scorer, who keeps the general score sheet with plus and minus column for each player. At the end of each game, amounts made or lost by the parties in the play are entered in the proper column."

Napoleon.

Please publish Ingersoll's "At the Grave of Napoleon." S. O. S.
It would occupy more space than can be given to any one subject in this department.

No Increase.

Is now drawing a pension of \$10 a month. Is she entitled to an increase when she attains the age of seventy years? S. C.
No.

In the Navy.

What is the proportion of aliens to Americans in the navy of the United States? S. C.
From the report of the chief of the Bureau of Navigation issued at the close of last year, it appears that out of 20,742 enlisted men, of which 91.51 per cent are natives, 2,346 per cent are naturalized, and 11 per cent have declared intention of becoming citizens.

Half Snake.

Is there any truth in the statement that a woman's hair if it lay in stagnant water for a long time will turn into a snake? W. O.
No.

Old Date.

On what day of the week was Abraham Lincoln shot? X.
Friday.

GOSSIPY MEMOIRS A HELP TO HISTORY

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.
So much about has been discussed during the last few weeks, on both sides of the Atlantic, upon that form of journalism which deals with persons rather than with events, that it may not be amiss to point out here that a knowledge of persons is indispensable to the correct appreciation of a knowledge. It is much easier for people to understand, and to form a correct judgment of the acts of a ruler, of a statesman, or of an author, if one is acquainted with his history, his character, his family antecedents, his failings, and with the influences to which he is subjected. The most varied characters, and the more they can be revealed to the people, the better it is for the commonwealth.

It is the happy memory of the Rev. John G. Fiske, who died in 1887, and whose book, "The Life of Queen Victoria," is a masterpiece of history, that has been the source of the "Gossipy Memoirs," which are now being published in London. The "Gossipy Memoirs" are a series of biographies of the most prominent figures of the last century, written by a woman who has been a close friend of many of the great men of the age. The book is a masterpiece of history, and it is a pity that it is not more widely known.

I could mention scores and scores of names taken from the pages of Burke's "Speeches," which have been the past and present contributors to this species of literature, as, for instance, Voltaire, Lady Greyville, sister of the Duke of Devonshire, and the Duchess of Rutland, stepmother of the present duke, who greatly irritated Queen Victoria, and who, in connection with personal journalism, is a fact, it is ridiculous to refer to this phase of journalism as "baiting from the gutter." The "Gossipy Memoirs" are a series of biographies of the most prominent figures of the last century, written by a woman who has been a close friend of many of the great men of the age.

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